



THE MAINE FARMER PUBLISHING CO., Publishers and Proprietors.

"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

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No. 17.

THESE THINGS DO!

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Maine Farmer.

Z. A. GILBERT, Agricultural Editor.

ADVERTISE IN A LIVE PAPER.

The circulation of the MAINE FARMER has steadily increased since August 1st, and has now reached TEN THOUSAND copies weekly. The public appreciate a live, up-to-date newspaper.

"Sing, my bonnie, harmless sheep,
That feed upon the mountains steep,
Bleating sweetly as you go
Through the winter's frost and snow.
But and hind and fallow deer,
No by half so useful are:
Fas kins to him that hands the plow
All are obliged to tarry woo."

They are talking four dollars a head after shearing, for breeding ewes on the range. How does that look for the sheep industry?

Send for the Maine Farmer and its great premium list. Show it to your friends who are not subscribers and help swell the volume of its helpful influence.

A German, scientist, it is reported, has been experimenting extensively on the means of removing dirt from milk. Better far not have the dirt in the milk.

The Argentine wheat crop is already harvested. The crop is an average one and the Buenos Ayres Standard predicts a million tons for export.

A brief advertisement in the Country Gentleman of "wanted to buy Baldwin apples of the producer at \$4 the barrel," brought only one response. Evidently Baldwin is scarce.

Having urged the dairy and fruit interests, attention will in the near future be directed to the meat making possibilities of our down East farmers. There is no question but this feature must receive more attention than it has for the past ten years.

A western cattle grower says that satiating the hair on the backs of cattle with weak brine during the months of February and March, will kill every grub of the ox warble in their hides. The grub will shiver up and come out like a small thorn, and there will be no irritation after the brine is applied.

John Gould of Ohio, in speaking of practices in another State, states that farmers were feeding their cows on hay at a cost of fifteen cents a day, while three cents' worth of corn ensilage will perform exactly the same office. Now, John doesn't really mean to deceive—he is only at fault with his mathematics. If he compares corn ensilage at the cost of production with hay, he must figure his hay also at cost of production. That's what's the trouble with John's feeding cows with arithmetic.

THE CODLIN MOTH.

It has generally been supposed that the life history of the common codlin moth was well understood. It seems, however, from further research recently made that there were some things about this little pest of the orchard that had not been learned. We have been taught that the moth lays its eggs in the calyx of the young fruit, where in time it hatches and bars its way to the centre of the fruit. Prof. Slingerland of Cornell, however, has called attention to an error here. He has found that the moth does not lay its eggs in the calyx of the young fruit. They are laid on the surface of the fruit, and there hatch out. The larva then crawls into the calyx for a shelter and hiding place, where they begin to eat as all along has been supposed. Some of them find a hiding place or cover under a leaf that lays over a growing fruit, and others between two fruits touching each other. From these positions also, they begin to eat their way into the fruit.

Prof. Washburn of the Oregon station confirms the above view in regard to the eggs being deposited on the skin of the apple. Still later, Prof. Card of the Nebraska station claims that he finds the eggs almost exclusively laid on the upper surface of the leaves of the tree. In all the observations made in 1897, he found but two laid on the surface of the fruit. The young larva is a lively little fellow and begins at once to scurry round for a hiding place and for something to eat. Most of them find their way to the calyx. These facts are important as connected with the matter of spraying for the de-

struction of this insect. They show there is not so much hurry about the work as formerly has been supposed. Any time before the calyx cups close together is early enough. Some have contended that the proper time to spray was while the tree was in blossom. The bee keepers have objected to this and some States have passed laws prohibiting spraying till after the petals have fallen. This conflict of interests will be settled by these later facts.

VALUE OF A GOOD COW.

Here is a morsel from Gurler's book on dairying. "The cow that makes 250 pounds of butter costs 200 pounds for food, and leaves 50 pounds for profit. The cow that gives 300 pounds costs about the same for food and leaves 100 pounds profit, or about twice as much as the 250, and is worth twice as much. A 350 pound cow is worth three times as much as the 250 pound cow, and six times as much as a 225 pound cow. This is supposing that one cow consumes as much as the other."

We don't like such an illustration, and plainly for the reason that it is unsound and therefore misleading. We have seen many similar statements in regard to the same problem before Mr. Gurler published the above. We believe a reasonable statement would be far more convincing to a cow owner, hence more effective in turning attention to the superior value of the best animals. We may be old-fashioned, but in all these agricultural matters the truth was always good enough illustration for us.

A cow giving 225 pounds butter is worth at the present time \$80. Then according to the above reasoning the 350 pound cow would be worth \$150. Such a calculation takes no account of anything but the product. There is a hazard in the ownership of every cow. This hazard discounts from the value otherwise recognized. Here the investment risk alone is six times as great with the best cow as valued with the poorer. The life hazard is certainly in no less proportion. In the day of the Jersey boom we heard a Jersey fancier offer \$1200 for a bull calf of a fancy line of breeding, which was refused. The would-be purchaser stated at the same time that if there were a safe life stock insurance company he would pay three thousand dollars for the animal. In this case the hazard to him was more than half the useful value of the animal, or as 3 to 2. Applying this estimate to the best cow she would be worth only \$75. This is probably nearer her real value to the dairyman than the extravagant claim made by Mr. Gurler in the paragraph we quote.

We appreciate a good cow and recognize its superior value. We would at all times urge attention to the importance of so breeding and weeding that only good ones may be retained. An extravagant illustration of the advantages of such a course however, is more repulsive than convincing to the average cow owner who already knows at least something about the business.

WIDE TIRES.

The Missouri station is still at work on wide tire problems. We tried a wide tire experiment on our own farm last year on our farm cart. A year ago the wheels on one cart needed repairs, it was decided to discard them and go the wide tire experiment one better. Accordingly a new outfit entire was built with six inch rims to the wheels. The improvement in the work of the wheels on the soft lands of the farm is surprising, and of course most satisfactory. The heavy loads now ride over the rough furrows and soft sward in appearance almost as a boat floats on the water. The added cost is but a trifle while the advantage is great. To every farmer we recommend a change to the wide tires.

Speaking of the Maine Farmer's proposition for an interstate dairy exhibit to include the three northern New England States, the Massachusetts Ploughman thinks the New England should be included and the show held at some "central point, like Boston." Look on the map, brother Boston, you may be the "Hub," but it takes a long spoke to reach Houlton, Claremont or St. Albans. The question the Maine Farmer wants settled first is between these three States, and there are reasons for the suggestion that the other States are not concerned in.—Manchester Union.

The Farmer is not a stickler for location, the one object being to secure an exhibition where the butter from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, and other New England States if desired, may go under the eye of one judge at the same time and under the same conditions. The Farmer having set the ball in motion proposes to hold on until the fact is demonstrated that our butter makers lead the procession.

—Cable advices Feb. 10th, to George A. Cochrane from the principal markets of Great Britain give butter markets as steady and the late advance sustained, but the increased demand has been largely on finest fresh arrivals. Held goods are clearing up. Finest Australian continues to bring 21¢@22¢ for finest fresh landed parcels. Danish and French are higher. Better markets are looked for, as arrivals are expected to be light for a month or six weeks. Cheese markets are inactive, with no immediate prospects of improvement.



Strawberry Valley Fruit Farm, Hancock Point, Me., E. W. Wooster, Manager. A Flat of Parker Earle.

Maine State Pomological Society.

WINTER MEETING.

Last week the Maine Farmer contained a full report of the addresses of the first day of the meeting at North Jay, and at this time presents the gist of the discussions and closing essays.

Strawberries.

BY ERNEST W. WOOSTER, HANCOCK POINT, MAINE.

For twelve years I have been a most studious student trying to comprehend all I possibly could about the culture of the strawberry with the conditions as they existed with me, and I now feel that there is much more outside than within my knowledge pertaining to the business. By this I do not wish you to understand that this apparent lack of knowledge was wholly due to my incapacity to comprehend the teachings of experience, but to give emphasis to the fact that no man can live long enough to learn all that is possible about the business, and this will not only apply to the strawberry business but to every business and occupation of life.

In its domesticated state no berry has been so much improved in size and productiveness, and there are cultivated berries to-day much superior to the wild ones in this respect; something hard to say of the cultivated ones twenty years ago. A good commercial berry must, necessarily, be a firm berry, and a firm berry must, necessarily, be one of ordinary quality. Those juicy, melting, honey flavored berries which are fine even before fully ripe, will commend themselves only to a home or near-by market and for family use. I have a seedling from the Flaverland with the Triumph, that is really too good to sell, inasmuch as its fine quality would not be appreciated in the open market against its appearance after being gathered a few hours, but we know well how to appreciate them in our family, and we also have a few local customers who have found them out and will have no others as long as they last. They are of medium size but very productive. So much for the strawberry.

Its Culture.

The first and most important lesson to be learned in the culture of the strawberry is the fact that the berry plant is a living thing, just as much as your cow, your horse, your sheep or your hen, or any other animal that you may have, and subject to the same laws in regard to feed, treatment and care. The organisms of life differ somewhat from the animal, and their sensitivities are not so high, but the same grand law which regulates and governs one life regulates and governs the other. Conditions vary so much in different parts of the country and even in the same sections that it is impossible to lay down a complete set of rigid rules which will have a general application in any locality. There are only two rules upon which all the great experts seem to be well agreed: "Good cultivation and good fertilization," but even in these they disagree as to what constitutes good fertilization and good cultivation.

The rules to follow are:
1st, Good Cultivation.
2d, Good Fertilization.
3d, Plant in the Spring as early as you can get your ground ready.

4th, Mulch the season of fruiting.
5th, Winter protection where the ground freezes.

These are the only rules that the great strawberry growers of the present day can agree upon, and the only ones that we can rely upon as being correct; all others, which by far constitute the larger part, must be learned in the schools of experience. Natural qualifications, as well as natural advantages, are necessary to place one in the business upon the pinnacle of success. It does not require any very great amount of talent to grow a patch of strawberries in the kitchen

garden. Any one ought to be able to do that who can grow general vegetables; but I am speaking more particularly about the business when conducted on a large scale—in growing strawberries by the acre and by the thousands of quarts. In doing a business of large proportions the demand for those natural qualities comes in. First, one should thoroughly like the business, be a great lover of nature and delight to study her laws, be one of great courage and perseverance, and a man of great strength of will power. It is very necessary that he should thoroughly understand human nature, and be able to form correct opinions of a man's integrity from the words he utters through print, though he may never have seen his face or heard his voice.

There seems to be a great lack of knowledge among strawberry growers in general in regard to what a strawberry plant really is. It is generally regarded as a biennial—a plant lasting but two years—the plant growing the first year and fruiting the second, after which it becomes comparatively worthless. While the conclusion may be practically correct, the idea about the nature of the plant in regard to its term of life is entirely wrong. The life of a strawberry plant is really as long as the life of the variety. It is an evergreen ground shrub that fruits the second year from seed, and then each year after on the wood of the previous season's growth. That's nature's plan. Man, by interruption of nature's laws, can induce it to fruit on old wood, but not, as I maintain, with the best results. The real length of life of a strawberry plant or variety has not yet been fully determined. The length of its life of profitable culture depends much upon the natural strength of the variety, the method of propagation, its environment, and my observation has quite fully convinced me that it cannot be expected to much exceed 25 years.

How We Plant and Care for an Acre of Strawberries.

Now that we have outlined the strawberry subject somewhat let us see if we have learned enough to plant an acre of this fruit and care for it at least 18 months.

Our market is such that it appreciates fancy fruit, or in other words, we cater for that trade and take the other only when we are obliged to. On this acre of ground we want to grow the greatest crop of fancy berries possible under the conditions that are and will exist, and at the smallest cost. In other words we want to do every thing we can to that patch which will add to the profit side and nothing more. Bear in mind that we are not after experience in this case, we are supposed to have had that, but after profit.

We have been looking ahead two years for this planting and had selected two plots of woodland, second growth, of one-third acre each; one on upland, sloping gently to the South; the other on bottom land with same kind of slope only to the North. It cost \$50 to have this done. The plants cost about \$25, making the entire cost of preparing the land after the brush is burned about \$75 per acre. The stump piles were burned as soon as they became dry and then we laid off the land in beds two rods wide on upland and from one to one and a half rods on the bottom plot. We back-furrowed several times, dragging them down after each plowing, with the spring-tooth, and finally finished with the road-machine and brush-harrow. These beds were made up just the same as a good road bed should be made; the highest in the middle so as to afford perfect surface drainage. Unless this is provided for, the plants are liable to winter-

kill by ice making over them. Along where the rows are going to be we sowed 10 lbs of Cumberland Corn Fertilizer to a row and work this in with the "Planet Jr.," 12-tooth. The rows were three feet apart and were made as straight as we could draw a line. The upland plot we set to Beder Wood, Warfield, Haverland and Lovett; using Beder Woods to fertilize Warfield and Lovett to fertilize Haverland, setting one row of the staminate to two of the pistillate. In setting the plants we use a mason's trowel, setting the plants two feet apart in the rows, carefully spreading out the roots fan-shaped, against the back side of the excavation, then pushing the earth back against them, firming them well in by a pressure of the hands.

The upland patch we tried to have all prepared the Fall before planting, so there would be but little delay in getting plants set after the ground was in proper condition. All we want to do in the Spring in the way of preparing the ground is to cultivate the phosphate in and brush down the beds. Upland prepared this way the Fall before can be worked in the Spring just as soon as the frost is out of the ground. It is a great advantage, this getting plants set early so as to give a good start and have them well rooted before the summer drought comes along. Then you can laugh at it. In fact, it's just what we want, if our soil is deep. This great cry for water! water! water!!! which some fruit growers are always howling for the strawberry I don't join in with. They can have the water from the sky if they want it, but we much prefer to water our plants from the reservoir of the soil with the cultivator, hoe and mulch, than to be obliged to take it in such quantities from the skies as we were obliged to last Summer here in Maine.

As the lowland patch will not be in condition to set till about a month later we heel the plants intended to be used here in a cold-frame where the soil is very rich and fine, Bubach with Beverly, and Princeton Chief with Parker Earle. When the ground is ready to receive the plants they are transferred from the frames to the beds, set the same as the others. While setting, the roots of the plants are never allowed to get dry, and we try to avoid dry, windy days, setting neatly in the P. M.

Cultivate as often as necessary to keep the crust broken and the weeds down. As the runners commence to grow, train along the rows the way the cultivator runs and assist them to take root. After the plants have matted a row about one foot wide with plants from four to six inches apart, put the runner-cutter on the "Planet Jr.," and thereafter keep all runners out as soon as they grow. Sow the phosphate when there is no wind and the plants are dry along the rows before each cultivation, using the potato brand which has a greater per cent of potash. We put on during the season fully one ton to the acre.

In a dry season we cultivate about three inches deep making a dust mulch of that depth, obliging the main roots to go below that depth for the water. As the Fall rains set in we cultivate more shallow, that the fine roots may come nearer the surface but not nearer than one inch; cultivation should be kept going at that depth as long in the Fall as growth continues. This method of cultivation in a dry season will give the plants an immense root system, and is the most practical irrigating and food-gathering system to be given the strawberry patch. It is a system that works automatically—self-acting and self-regulating—which will pump water and give food to the thirsty and hungry plants while you are enjoying your peaceful slumbers. Towards the Fall we sow phosphate between the rows, as under this inch of dust mulch the soil will be completely filled from row to row with the net-work of roots.

In a wet season it will be impossible to get this great root system, as the roots will then spread out near the surface and will be much shorter and more thickly matted. Frequent cultivation is necessary to keep down the weeds in the soil and the crust broken. When Fall

comes and there is danger of injury to the plants by alternate freezing and thawing of the ground, we put on some artificial covering to protect. I say artificial covering, because Nature's covering is snow and most decidedly the best in quality inasmuch as it is the best non-conductor of any substance known.

The best artificial protection we find available are evergreen boughs or little trees. The little trees from three to twelve feet tall are the better, as they are great to catch and hold the snow. To make them lay where they are put, trim off the limbs from one side and lay that side down next the ground. We cover both patches with this material; but before we put it on the lowland we cover between rows with salt hay or straw. This is to hold the plants back somewhat so that they will fruit a little later than if covered with boughs alone. In the Spring, just as soon as the freezing nights are over, when the green foliage begins to lift up, we take off the covering from the upland plot, and sow on one fourth ton of potato fertilizer just before a rain; and then cultivate lightly once a week till well into blossoming, then put on one ton of straw, working it well up under the sides of the rows of plants. On the lowland plot we leave the brush on about two weeks later, when it is taken off and phosphate put on as on the other, only there is no cultivation or disturbing of the hay or straw mulch, something which would induce early fruiting, just what we don't want.

Unless we spray with Bordeaux Mixture there is no more expense till picking time. We should use it if there were much wet weather, even on those varieties much inclined to rust, such as Parker Earle, Beder, Wood and Warfield. Our experience in spraying one season, has given us reasons to hope that under some circumstances it will pay to spray.

Now, before we go any further, let us see how much expense we have been to thus far with these two half-acre lots:

Getting the ground ready from start to finish.....	\$75.00
One and a half tons of phosphate.....	45.00
Applying half ton of phosphate.....	10.00
Keeping blossoms of 2 cents.....	20.00
Applying 7000 plants, \$3 per M.....	21.00
Setting of the same.....	12.00
Keeping blossoms of 2 cents.....	2.00
Two to a salt hay.....	10.00
Putting on hay and straw.....	8.50
Putting on brush.....	12.00
Taking off.....	5.00
Extra.....	5.00
Total.....	\$255.50

2000 qts. from upland patch at average price of 12 cents.....	240.00
3000 qts. from lowland patch at average price per qt. of 12 cents, 360.00	360.00
Total receipts.....	600.00

Total expense in gathering the fruit, including rent of crates, commissions, 3 cents per qt.....	175.00
Expense as above.....	255.50
Total expenditure.....	\$430.50

Net proceeds, \$169.50.

I am perfectly well aware that these figures do not present such a veritable "Klondike Gold Field" as most of the "Model Acre" plots, but nevertheless I feel that they speak the truth. Most writers on the strawberry subject make the great mistake in bolstering up the receipt side to its highest possible limit. A normal expense we are always sure of, and by certain unexpected events it often exceeds our expectations; while on the other hand, there are always certain contingencies which will greatly reduce our expected receipts. It is always wisdom when computing to give a liberal allowance for these contingencies. There has not been a single year since I have been in the strawberry business, but what these contingencies have made their appearance and always in a way least expected. I now look for them yearly as a matter of course, and try to provide for them as far as possible.

It must be borne in mind, that to Grow a Good Crop of Berries and Get them ready for the Pickers Does Not Include One-half the Battle. Then comes the time that will test your metal, try your generalship, and prove whether you are equal to all the emergencies that are sure to arise. From this acre we should have from 100 to nearly 1000 qts. to be gathered daily to the close of the season. In order to gather this fruit in the best shape we must have from one to twenty pickers each day, as, owing to weather conditions and other circumstances we are often obliged to gather our fruit in a very short time. Our customers are fastidious, exacting and not considerate of the many trials which surround us. They expect choice berries delivered in fine shape each day regardless of all weather conditions, and if they do not always receive them thus our reputation suffers.

The largest part of our capital is here invested, and we feel that we must protect it at all hazards. To do this we are called upon to give our personal attention to almost every detail, trusting but little to our best man. We must be here, there and everywhere, all at the same time, among the pickers, seeing that they are doing their work right; into the packing-house, superintending the packing and shipping; at the station, seeing that the crates are being carefully handled; at the desk, answering correspondence.

My first attempt was with potted plants eight years ago and every year since I have grown and planted thousands of these. If I could be assured of 25 cents

as an average price for all the strawberries that I could grow by this method I would use it altogether. By this method we can grow the largest average sized berries, the best formed berries, the most beautifully colored berries and the firmest berries grown by any method we have ever tested.

Our trade for these fancy berries, at the price we can afford to grow them, is limited to about 3000 quarts yearly, and we grow these more for reputation than for direct profit. As this is our hobby branch of the strawberry business, we have tried very hard to develop it to a high standard, to grow the largest and best crop of berries at the smallest possible cost, and to this end have experimented very largely. It is really a trade by itself, and to become proficient one must needs have much experience. We feel certain that it is the only practical and profitable way to fruit plants the next season after that seed set in the late Summer or Autumn, and this method of growing the strawberry cannot be generally advised.

Varieties.

We have altogether too many varieties. They go up into the hundreds, and yet the really good ones, that one can afford to grow here in Maine, if he is growing for fruit alone, can be counted upon the fingers of both hands. What those varieties shall be every man should determine largely for himself; but whatever his selection may be, they should be from those that have been well tested in the State, and have a record with the "upper tens." "Go slow" with all novelties, no matter who recommends them, unless you have time and money to throw away on experimenting. Among the many new varieties introduced every year under the highest rating, only a few are destined to have even a local popularity, and not a chance of one in fifty of becoming generally popular enough to supersede the best standards. It is clearly evident that the larger proportion of these new varieties are sent out by those who trust to their ability to defend their reputation for honesty by the many excuses they can present when the truth regarding the value of the variety becomes well known.

I have caught two this winter "red handed" at their work, and came very near catching the third one. This third one, instead of sending out a new variety, is sending out one that was introduced four years ago under a new name; but there is one thing in its favor, it is offered on about as easy terms as the true-named plants are at the present time. While I realize it is clearly my duty to publicly expose these parties, I am of the opinion that the means would better affect an end to this fraud for pomological societies to pass resolutions condemning it, and demanding satisfactory warranty from all those who introduce novelties.

It takes more than one season to test the value of a variety in any locality in regard to its fruiting ability, but the nature of the soil and seasons has an effect not to be overlooked. It would be as unreasonable to expect any variety of strawberry to fruit well every year, even though weather and soil conditions are favorable, for they must have their off years as often as the apple tree. By giving the strawberry high culture and nipping off the blossoms from the plants that grow, the plants which are for fruiting the next season, we, in a measure break up this natural tendency.

Most people planting the Parker Earle in Maine for general field culture, would give it up as a failure because of its seeming inability to mature the fruit set, but we find if we give it the treatment it requires it is the most profitable variety that we can grow and the most reliable. It demands plenty of room for each plant, very high culture and deep, moist, retentive soil. On the other hand the Crescent will stand the most abuse of any variety that I know of and yet give a fairly good yield. However, it is not in our line of most profitable varieties, so we discarded it some five years ago.

While there may not be so many varieties that will succeed as well in Maine as in those States which have a milder climate, we know that there are enough of the very best which will succeed here, and succeed wonderfully. Judging from all I have seen and heard, I should unhesitatingly say that Maine was second to no other State in producing strawberries of fine quality. Maine berries have already established a reputation in Boston market, at least those coming from certain sections of Maine. That much is pretty well settled. The next question is: Can we produce them cheaply enough so that after the possibility of home consumption at profitable prices has been satisfied, we can send the balance that we may have to dispose of to Boston or other markets?

In order to answer this question it is necessary to do a little calculating to see how much we have in our favor and how much is against us. We have here in Maine a certain commodity which we yearly have a large crop to dispose of, and of which we

Could sell Millions of Tons without selling one cent worth of the natural fertilizing elements of the soil. Though it is wholly made up of that

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MR. C. S. AYER, our Agent, is now calling upon our subscribers in Kennebec county.
MR. E. S. GIFFORD, our Agent, is now calling upon our subscribers in York county.Sample Copy sent on application.
Try the Maine Farmer for one month.

The MAINE FARMER now announces to its patrons a GUARANTEED weekly circulation of

10,000

copies. Under different editors, each one a recognized authority, contributed to by the best writers in the country, every department has a special interest to the family group, and is therefore read by all. Firmly established in the homes of the people, THE MAINE FARMER can conservatively claim

50,000

readers weekly. Embracing the whole State and New England in its list, and confined almost exclusively to the homes of the progressive agriculturists, it affords a medium for advertising without parallel in the State.

Lightning in February is slightly out of season in Maine.

No representative of the State Board of Agriculture was present at the Pomological Winter Meeting. Are not our fruit interests worthy of recognition by the State body?

Mr. Wooster is one of the most successful strawberry growers in Maine, and his address on the first page merits a thoughtful reading. The Farmer is the only paper giving more than an abstract of this instructive paper.

Hon. Geo. T. Powell of New York, one of the best institute workers in the country, an abstract of whose address at No. Jay was given in our last issue, will receive an enthusiastic reception when he again visits Maine.

It may be "enterprise" which places the "great family newspaper" containing an address before an audience two hours before the same is to be delivered, but the Maine Farmer prefers to keep faith with public speakers, even though it be voted a little slow.

The Kansas farmers, since they sold their wheat, have been buying top buggies and grand pianos. Better be preparing for another year's business and storing something for another rainy day. Enormous crops and high prices do not come every year.

According to official announcement the Imperial State of Georgia will offer for sale to the highest bidder on April 1, 2300 convict laborers, all in middling repair, and in lots to suit purchasers. If this is to be a bargain sale Maine will be well represented.

Newspapers which are doing their best to build up local industries enjoy having handbills placed on their desks by local merchants bearing the imprint, and the earmarks, of cheap out-of-town printing offices. Such reciprocal relations strengthen good fellowship and prove the worth of cooperation.

The entering wedge has been started and the first Southern war claim has been voted by Congress. This means that ultimately every conceivable form of a claim growing out of the Civil War will command the attention of Congress, and the course of an increasing debt be

forced upon the people. So much for bad politics.

William H. Jeffrey has returned from his prospecting tour to the West region and announces, of course, that "the half has never been told" of the golden wealth of that wondrous region. He declares that gold is piled up in stacks like cordwood. To be sure he has only been part way there but then the story is just as good.

Following closely our dairy industry comes our orchards, while the area devoted to small fruits will be multiplied many times during the next decade. As usual the report of the Pomological meeting in the Maine Farmer is the most complete furnished, and the importance of the addresses fully justifies the space given. In quality it will rank as one of the best in the history of the society.

Pending the action of the New York legislative assembly upon the bill recently introduced in favor of biennial sessions for that State, the New York Times says: "The advocates of biennial sessions for the legislature of New York have the argument on all their sides. This is no longer a matter of theory or experiment. The experiment has been tried amply, and in every case the outcome has been entirely satisfactory. There is no trouble, whatever, in getting all the good and needed legislation once in two years, and with such a body as New York has you get about half as much of the mere traffic and jobbery." Maine will never retrace its steps to yearly sessions.

The death of Miss Frances Willard removes from the activities of this life one of the most noble, unselfish, sincerely-minded women of the age. To whatever department of labor she attached herself her best efforts were untriflingly given. No one has questioned her sincerity and the world has been a magnificent one, and the loyalty of those who looked to her as their leader will now only be more intensely given to carry on the noble and beneficent lines of work which she has laid down, to a still higher mark and to greater success. By the death of Miss Willard, President of the National W. C. T. U., the first Vice President, Mrs. L. M. Stevens of Peering, becomes the active head of the order in the United States, and it is thought that she will succeed Miss Willard in the presidency.

THE LESSON OF THE HOUR.

To-day the one topic of conversation in town and city all over this fair land of ours is the terrible disaster in Havana harbor, the destruction of the warship Maine and the loss of two hundred and fifty-three lives. The deep significance attending the disaster has awed the American people and the desire uppermost in the minds of all thoughtful people, is that the investigation may prove beyond question that the explosion was an accident and from within. Terrible as is the loss of life, it falls before the outcome of what will be if the responsibility should fall upon the Spanish, even though those in authority are not involved.

The sympathies of the American people have been strengthening towards the insurgents on the island, and as their necessities have been made known, contributions of money, clothing and food have gone forth. These acts of common charity have excited still greater sympathy. In the insult paid President McKinley and through him, every American citizen by the Spanish Minister, still deeper animosities were engendered. The immediate action of the Spanish government in recalling its representative and the ample apology offered by it satisfied our officials that the act was but the expression of an individual, yet the flame had been fed and when the news of the destruction of the Maine came, a wave of intense patriotism swept over this entire country, giving evidence of the deep, underlying loyalty of our people, needing only some problem of National import for private interests to be set entirely aside and the safety of our institutions be the one all absorbing thought. East, West, North and South. To-day the Nation waits the deliberate opinion of the most experienced experts. No act of our President has been more timely than when he refused to allow the request of the Spanish government, that their divers should work with ours. The Maine is as much the property of the United States to-day as when she sailed out of the harbor of New York and until the wreck is finally abandoned, there can be no cause for allowing any withdrawal of control.

The Court of Inquiry held its first session on board the Mangrove, in Havana harbor, Monday, Capt. Sigsbee being the first witness. If it is shown that the explosion that destroyed the Maine was an internal one, many naval officers are convinced that its origin will be found in the gun cotton magazine.

Passengers who arrived in New York, from Havana, Monday, on the steamer Segura, told of the panic which seized Havana citizens when the Maine was blown up. Some of the citizens thought the Cuban rebels had attacked the city, and others feared that Morro castle had been destroyed.

It is the most serious catastrophe which has happened for years, and has brought desolation to thousands of friends all over our country. There is, to-day, great reason for thankfulness that wisdom and deliberate judgment are enthroned at Washington, and that the full weight of responsibility is recognized by President McKinley and his advisers.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Not for many years has there been so general an observance of the birthday of Washington as on Tuesday. In country and city, North and South, with youth and adults the story of true patriotism has been rehearsed. Probably the most significant of all the addresses delivered was that by President McKinley at Philadelphia, from which a few extracts are made:
"I rejoice with you in the day. I re-

joice, also, that throughout this broad land the birthday of the patriot leader is faithfully observed and celebrated with an enthusiasm and earnestness which testify to the virtue and gratitude of the American people.

It was committed to Washington to launch our ship of State. He had no other predecessor nor predecessor to help him. He welded the scattered, and at times antagonistic colonies into an indestructible union and inculcated the lessons of mutual forbearance and fraternity, which have cemented the States into still closer bonds of interest and sympathy.

At the very height of his success and reward, as he emerged from the Revolution, receiving by unanimous acclaim the plaudits of the people, and commanding the respect and admiration of the civilized world, he did not forget that his first official act as President should be fervent supplication to the Almighty Being who rules the universe.

It is he who presides in the councils of nations and whose providential aid can supply every human defect. It is his benediction which we most want, and which can and will consecrate the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States. With His help the instruments of the citizens employed to carry out their purposes will succeed in the functions allotted to public life. But Washington, on the occasion, went further and spoke for the people, assuming that he but voiced the sentiment of the young nation in thus making faith in Almighty God and reliance upon His favor and care of the strong foundations of the government then inaugurated.

And proceeding, Washington states the reasons for his belief in language which has been quoted by every patriot since. "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of man more than the people of the United States." But if a timely lesson is to be drawn from the opinions of Washington on his assuming the office of President, so, also, is much practical counsel to be derived, from the present application of portions of his farewell address, a document, in which Washington laid down principles which appeared in him "all-important to the permanent of our felicity as a people." In that address, Washington contends in part:

1. For the promotion of institutions of learning.
2. For cherishing the public credit.
3. For the observance of good faith and justice toward all nations.

Following the precepts of Washington, we cannot err. The wise lessons in government which he left us, it will be profitable to heed. He seemed to have grasped all possible conditions and pointed the way safely to meet them. He has warned us against false lights. He has taught us the true philosophy of a "perfect union," and shown us the graphic dangers of sectionalism, and wise, reasonable, party spirit. He has emphasized the necessity at all times for the exercise of sober and dispassionate judgment.

Such judgment, my fellow-citizens, is the best safeguard in calm and tranquil events, and rises superior and triumphant above the storms of woe and peril."

LATEST FROM HAVANA.

Four divers are at work, two in the fore part of the Maine and the others aft. The task is most laborious. The men are extremely careful as they have had to work in complete darkness and several have had bad falls. Electric lights, worked from the Mangrove, are now available and much good is expected from them. Nearly all the possible salvage has now been made from the cabin aft. The efforts to reach the ward and mess rooms are frustrated by some unknown obstacle. It is expected to find bodies in these rooms. Three cases of ten inch ammunition have been found, one having exploded, the others full of powder. These were found forward.

The work of securing the bodies under the hatch has been most difficult in the dark, but it is hoped that the electric light will be of great assistance. The bodies are most mutilated and some are partially burned. The bodies of 12 firemen have been taken out from under the hatch leading from the superstructure to the fire room. None were recognized and all were necessarily dismembered in course of removal.

The officers of the court of inquiry paid another visit to the wreck to-day. Capt. Sampson, after the visits of the members of the court to the Captain General and Admiral Manterola this morning, said the reception extended them had been polite and cordial. The Captain General and Admiral had expressed deep sympathy and the hope that nothing would interfere to prevent a thorough investigation. They offered to give any help in their power.

A dispatch to the New York Journal says "The Maine was not wrecked by a torpedo. The conclusion forces itself that the Maine was destroyed by a large submerged mine."

Because of the tremendous upward force of the explosion.

Because of the great hole torn in the Maine's bottom. The battleship did not sink slowly. It went down instantly.

Because it is a known fact that Havana harbor is a nest of mines, some of them very large.

Because two men, who will testify before the Board of Investigation, while rowing across the harbor came in contact with a wire running apparently from the Maine to the Arsenal.

To sum up:
The explosion could not have been inside the Maine.

The explosion could not have been from a torpedo.

The explosion was from a mine."

The American citizens who were in Havana at the time of the accident state that great excitement prevailed, and at the time of sailing the foreign population were generally of the opinion that the Maine was destroyed by design. They cited, among other things, that the Spanish man of war, which was anchored near the Maine, changed her moorings previous to the disaster.

C. P. Holcomb, of New Castle, Del., general manager of a street railroad in Philadelphia, one of the passengers on board the Segura, was outspoken in his belief that the investigation at Havana would reveal some startling circumstances.

"I went to Havana," said Mr. Holcomb, "not at all in sympathy with the insurgents, but on Wednesday when we got to Havana, I believe any of the Americans on board were in a mood to commit murder. The flags of the Span-

ish warship were not at half mast. The vessels of all other nationalities had paid this slight tribute to the dead. I had a telegram to bring back the remains of apprentice Glasier, who is the son of my bookkeeper. I found that he was among the saved."

The contrast between the bearings of the Spaniards and Cubans is strong. At the funeral of the Maine's seamen, the Cuban women in the streets were almost all dressed in mourning, while the Spanish ladies wore colors. The only American flags I saw in the whole procession were two small ones about three by six inches. I went aboard the Alphonso XII and was received politely. The only expression of regret I heard there was from an officer, who complained that the force of the Maine explosion had broken his toilet bottles. There can be no mistaking the indifference of the Spaniards in Havana over the loss of the warship and those on board. On Thursday, while driving to the cemetery with two American friends, I was assailed with jeers, and some one threw a large stone at our carriage.

ACTIVITY IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

In spite of the effort being made to allay the fears of the people it is evident that there are unusual signs of activity in all branches of the War Department. In accordance with the administration policy of being prepared for emergencies, orders issued in regard to the completion of the repairs to the Terror contemplate getting that ship ready for service in two days. Naval Constructor Stahl has been authorized to employ men night and day on the monitor. Capt. O'Neill, chief of the bureau of ordnance, directed the ordnance officer at Norfolk Navy Yard to place ammunition on board the Terror, and, when completed, she will drop down to Hampton roads, where she will await sailing orders. The department has not definitely determined where to send the ship. The probabilities are that she will proceed to New York harbor and remain there for the protection of that port in case of emergency.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Admitting the practicability of Postal Savings banks it cannot be claimed that there is the same demand for them in Maine where every center is supplied, as in some other States where a savings bank is now unknown. To further multiply is to weaken those now in operation, and surely a higher rate of interest, or greater security, cannot be expected than is now afforded the depositors in our own State.

Maine has been extremely conservative in the matter of legislation, protecting the depositors at every step. The battle has been fought again and again and the custom and law of other States urged, but the legislators have wisely withstood and in later years the wisdom of their action has been fully proved. For this reason we cannot urge the postal system in Maine, as it is not needed here.

KENNEBEC COUNTY FINANCES.

From Hon. J. E. Blanchard, County Treasurer for Kennebec county, we have just received a copy of the annual statement of the financial condition of the county. Like all the work done by this painstaking officer this bears the evidence of thorough business preparation. From it we learn that the receipts for the year have been \$84,127.06, less \$7,744.42 cash on hand Jan. 1, 1897, and expenditures \$72,457.20. The resources less than liabilities Jan. 1, 1898 are \$22,396.87.

The Lewiston Journal, with its accustomed enterprise, has this year supplied its office with a mammoth Hoe Press, so as to enlarge the paper to twenty-four pages. They announce still further changes, by which the Journal, during the year, will appear as a 32, 40, 48, or 56 page paper, as the pressure of news may demand. The new Hoe double-supplement press enables the Journal to present the latest news, giving the Journal the freshness of a daily paper of same date. This enlarged paper will enable the publishers to present even greater quantity and variety of matter than now, and to introduce new features. After the reader has secured his home paper it will be difficult to supplement it with one that will more fully present all the news, both at home and abroad, than the Lewiston Weekly Journal. The Evening Journal, the favorite daily paper of the State, participates in the benefits of better mechanical facilities, and now appears as a 10 and 12 page paper, daily, and 24 pages Saturday, making a very large amount of Maine and general news for the small sum of fifty cents a month, in advance. The Weekly edition is \$2.00 a year, the Wednesday and Saturday \$2.50, and the Saturday \$1.50 a year.

Better Stay in England.

Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, who was welcomed with outstretched arms by Americans, and carried back the outcome of his lectures many thousands of dollars, returns the compliment by not concealing the fact that he has been unfavorably impressed with American life. He has a great grievance against what he terms the "inventions of the American reporters," and he did not like his audiences.

"I feel at home here in England," he said; "but, there, in spite of the crowds, I felt a lack of sympathy with my scientific achievements. In many cases the people only wanted to stare, and they would have been equally pleased if I had got up and sung a comic song."

If For Lombard, Why Not Maine?

It is said that the faculty of Lombard University at Galesburg, Ill., has decided to add dancing to the regular college curriculum. It is only a matter of time when the up-to-date colleges probably will turn out bachelors of waltzing, masters of football and doctors of pink tea.

Chicago Times Herald.

The largest and most powerful wrecking appliances in the country will be sent at once to Cuba by Sec'y Long, the object being to raise the Maine, if possible, and bring the wreck to this country.

AGRICULTURAL.

—J. F. Howard, Winslow, one of Waterville's milkmen, is successor to his father, Cyrus Howard in the business, who was the first regular milkman running into Waterville.

—A. E. Shores & Son, Waterville, are well up among good farmers in town. They keep four horses, fifteen head of cattle, thirty-five or forty sheep, and from sixty to eighty swine, pure bred and grade Berkshires. The intention is, to, in the near future, materially increase their cattle and swine. During the past fall they have marketed more than two tons of pork, and at this time, Feb. 17, have eight or ten nice pigs ready for market. The Messrs. Shores have the buttermilk from the Waterville butter factory and consider it good feed.

—C. H. Merrill, C. E. Libby and I. C. Libby now own 43,000 sheep which they have on their five ranches in Montana. At Waterville they have 150 black faces or Shropshire sheep all registered, 45 of which came from the old country. In Boston the firm has stored, at present, 1,300,000 pounds of wool, in anticipation of a further rise in the market.

—Fat oxen and cows for the Brighton market are to be seen on almost any day.

—If any reader has pure bred Berkshires for sale, an advertisement in the Farmer will bring a customer.

—The union of the potato growers of Maine, led by Mr. Geo. B. Dickert, Mapleton, must be of practical service in future years, limited only by the measure of cooperative spirit infused into the organization. It is proposed to institute local unions for mutual benefit and surely good and only good will follow this step. Write to Mr. Dickert for particulars.

—Mr. J. W. Hobart, Dover, N. H., has a herd of 45 Jerseys pronounced fine by all who have seen them. His market is Boston and he ships weekly 22 two-gallon cans of cream. This is good business. Mr. Geo. S. Batchelder is manager of the farm.

—Mr. Robert W. Lord, owner of a rich farm at "Elma," Maine, has been gathering in a herd of Guernseys, bred chiefly from the grand cow, "Quartz," shown in the Farmer a few weeks ago. There is no question regarding the deserved popularity of the Guernseys. They are of good size, hardy, quiet and yet heavy producers of very rich milk.

—A Portland commission merchant says that sales of fancy canned corn are going on briskly. Prices are about the same as last year, and buyers begin to realize that it will not do to run on many risks of getting sold out as they did the past season. There will be no old corn of any consequence left unsold by September.

—The Belfast creamery is doing a good business in milk, and the work is such as will interest all.

—Cummings Brothers, of Portland, have purchased from F. C. Payson & Co. their Alfred corn factory. The price is understood to be in the vicinity of \$6,000.

—It will be agreeable intelligence to the farmers of that vicinity, to learn that the Bridgton Canning Company proposes this year to operate the corn factory in East Denmark.

—The organization of milk producers, which had its birth last year, at the time some friction arose between the milkmen and Portland Board of Health concerning the tuberculin test for cows, held its annual meeting in Portland, Saturday. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and it was voted to call the organization the Portland Milk Producers' Association.

The following officers were elected: President, Geo. E. Merrill, Gray; Vice President, Harry Jordan, New Gloucester; Secretary, C. L. Dunn, North Yarmouth; Treasurer, C. H. Nelson, Danville Junction. The entire business of the union was practically left to the following board of ten directors: A. S. Jones, Cash's Corner; Charles P. Loring, North Yarmouth; F. B. Blanchard, Cumberland Centre; S. Tracy, Deering; G. G. Bowie, East Gray; H. Merrill, East Gray; E. Wentworth, East Hiram; E. R. Thurston, Danville Junction; F. M. Floyd, New Gloucester; Van M. Carl, White Rock.

—The capacity of the Maine Sanitary Milk Supply Co. plant, Auburn, is to be increased from 38 cows to 120 cows.

—The storm badly interfered with the Institute at Riverside, Tuesday, the East and West roads being well-nigh impassable.

MAINE STATE FAIR.

At the meeting of the trustees of the Maine State Fair at Auburn, last Thursday, a vigorous discussion was held as to the coming exhibition. The Journal reports Trustee Gilman as opposed to paying such large premiums on stock and in favor of setting apart more for attractions. The Journal says:

"The trustees have an eye out for grand stand attractions. As will be remembered, Sec. Clarke visited Brockton fair last fall and was pleased with the size of the crowd. The Corvill Amusement Company of New York City is the company which furnished the entertainment, the consideration being about \$4000. Mr. Clarke has letters from Manager Chase containing terms and suggestions for a stage performance at the 1898 fair and the prospect is that negotiations will result in a contract and that we shall have a diversion that will entertain the people."

The stakes decided upon are given elsewhere in our columns.

THE MAINE FARMER ADVERTISEMENTS SATISFY PURCHASERS.

Dear Sir: I take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and the trouble you have been to on my account. I received a fine gobble from J. F. Hemmaway, Chelsea, Vt., thanks to the Maine Farmer. For recompense, please consider yourself invited to a turkey supper at my house, date to be fixed by you. Yours truly, E. H. CLARY.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure.

City News.

—His Honor, Gen. W. S. Choate has accepted an invitation to deliver the annual Memorial day address in Augusta.

—Isn't it a little strange that the daily political paper of the city hasn't heard about the coming city election?

—Capt. Ryan and Mason Farrar started Monday for the far away regions of the Klondike. Maine gold sent them out and they will be fortunate if Maine gold doesn't help them to return.

—The sympathy of all our citizens goes out to the family of Mr. Eli S. Mero on account of the loss of their son, Mr. Eldon Mero who was killed in the terrible disaster at Havana.

—The funeral of the late Joseph Howard, a well-known business man, was held, at 2 P. M., Sunday, at his late home in Sidney, Rev. C. A. Hayden officiating. There was a large attendance of relatives and friends.

—The twenty-four hours sleety storm Monday and Tuesday did not disturb travel in Augusta, save to make the streets uncomfortable. In Skowhegan, Foxcroft, Anson and Farmington from twelve to sixteen inches of snow brought the regular weekly blockade.

—Politics are stirring the muddy waters all over Maine. At Bath, after the declaration of Capt. Kelly, the Republicans have nominated Dr. W. G. Bibber. At Lewiston, the contest will be between Mayor Judkins, Rep., and W. H. Newell, Dem. In Augusta, Hon. R. W. Soule has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination.

—Miss G. P. Sanborn, proprietor of Ben Venue Greenhouses, is still boring for oil in the form of water. Located above the level of the city reservoir, she is obliged to depend upon wells, or cisterns, or haul water a long distance. For two years she has been boring into the granite hill hoping to find a supply ample for her needs.

—Again have the farm buildings of Warner Taylor at North Augusta been destroyed by fire. Mr. Taylor left his lantern hanging in the stable for a few minutes Saturday morning, only to find the building in flames on his return. Loss, \$2000; insured for \$700. This section of the city has lost heavily during the past two years.

—The annual session of the Women's Relief Corps, department of Maine, was held in Augusta last week and the members report an enjoyable gathering, a large number being in attendance. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: Pres. Addie V. Grant, Biddeford; senior Vice President, Alice S. Gilman, Oakland; junior Vice President, Nellie M. Carleton, Winthrop; Treasurer, Almida Berry, Biddeford; Secretary, Mary Pillsbury, Biddeford; Chaplain, Susan W. Merrick, Commander L. T. Carleton of the G. A. R. department of Maine, addressed the meeting.

—The work of furnishing the house to be used as a City Hospital is in the hands of C. B. Burleigh, Dr. B. T. Sanborn and Ira H. Randall. Hon. Herbert M. Heath, S. W. Lane, and Dr. B. T. Sanborn, were selected to appoint the medical staff, and formulate rules for the internal regulations of the hospital, and to determine who shall be eligible for admittance to the same. Let's see, isn't this hospital to be for the sick and suffering? Is it possible that candidates are to be examined as to party affiliations, church membership or school of practice before being admitted?

—The Superintendent of Schools Station has issued an important circular of instruction to towns. After the annual town meeting of 1898 any public school without an average attendance of at least eight pupils, is discontinued unless the town wants its annual meeting votes to maintain it. Superintendents of schools must procure conveyance of pupils to school when they reside at such distances from school as to render such conveyance necessary.

—After March 1, 1898, no member of a school committee is eligible to teach in a town where he is not a legal resident. Books, repairs, etc., must be paid for from a fund raised for the purpose, and not from either the common school or high school fund. The superintending school committee has charge of purchasing text-books and making repairs, but this may be delegated to the Superintendent.

—The superintending school committee has power to fill a vacancy in the office of trustee officer.

At the annual town meeting in 1898, three members of the superintending school committee must be elected, as the terms of office of all members of the existing committee expire then. At the first meeting of the new committee, they shall designate by lot the members to serve for one, two and three years respectively. They shall elect a Superintendent of schools, who shall not be one of their number and not have the right to vote, but shall be the Secretary of the committee.

Towns may elect a Superintendent of schools at the annual meeting, but must also have a school committee. The high schools must give instruction in high school studies, and failure to comply will subject a person misapprehending high school funds to a fine of double the sum misapplied, and the town to the penalty of restoring the amount misapplied before any other can be received from the State.

Superintendents must examine all candidates for admission to high schools, and determine if their scholastic attainments fit them for such schools. The school committees shall annually, at suitable times and places, hold public examinations of school teachers, giving suitable notice of the same. Certificates shall not be granted unless a satisfactory examination is passed in the specified branches. Superintendents must report under oath whether the statutes relating to examinations are complied with.

Eighteen inches of snow at Livermore Falls, Skowhegan and Dexter, Feb. 10th. A heavy rain storm throughout the lower region of Maine and a terrific thunder shower at Rockland, all the same night, would indicate a variety satisfactory to the most fastidious. During the shower the Baptist church at South Thomaston, one of the oldest churches in Maine, was struck by lightning and set on fire, being totally destroyed.

Snow and slush covered the streets of Portland to a depth of two to three feet, Tuesday, and business was at a standstill.

County News.

The Hollowell Granite Co. is shipping five carloads of dressed granite every day.

—The Selectmen of Readfield report large expense to the town for the breaking up of the last two storms.

—The Readfield stage seems to be the one to suffer most from the storms this winter. The hills in that section carry big drifts these days.

—The report of the town officers of Readfield is in the hands of the voters and the showing is a grand one for that good farming town.

—Mrs. S. G. Fogg, Readfield, came near losing the fine set of buildings on her home farm, Wednesday last, by the burning out of a chimney.

—The roads are so bad in Mt. Vernon that farmers are unable to deliver wool here, and most are without their next year's supply.

The trustees of Colby University have by unanimous vote, decided to erect a chemical laboratory at the North end of the campus near Coburn Hall, at an expense of about \$35,000.

—L. T. Boothby, Esq., the well-known insurance man, Waterville, was first appointed Justice of the Peace April 26, 1852, or nearly 46 years ago. He will have the office by reappointment ever since.

—Miss Mary Prosser, Riverside, has Mayflowers in full bloom. She took some up last fall and set them in the house, where she has taken care of them, and now she is rewarded by blossoms thus early.

County Commissioner Reuel C. Burgess of Vassalboro, will depart for the office of the first of April. He goes as Treasurer of the American-Alexander Transportation and Mining Co., of Chicago, which Gen. A. B. Spaulding of Chicago, is President.

—The death of Joseph Howard, Sidney, occurred Wednesday, from pneumonia, aged 83 years. Mr. Howard was the last surviving member of the family of eight children, six sons and two daughters, of which Gen. A. B. Spaulding of Chicago, was a son.

—A gift of \$25,000 from the Hon. Chester W. Kingsley of Cambridge, Mass., has been accepted by the board of trustees of Colby University at Waterville. This gift coming close upon the successful effort to raise \$60,000 for the college brings encouragement to the friends of Colby.

—A. E. Faught, Esq., of Sidney, has an almanac for 1796, by Robert R. Thomas, printed at Boston one hundred and two years ago. This almanac bears the name of his ancestor, Capt. Jacob Faught of Vassalboro, and contains his autograph and place of residence, etc. The owner of this almanac was the eldest of three sons who came to this country from Germany with his father when about twelve years of age, and settled in Vassalboro about 150 years ago. Mr. Faught prizes this book very highly it being an old family keepsake.

—The schoolhouse built some two or three years since by the town of Benton, in Benton station district, is an honor to the town. It was built some three years since under the direction of Fred M. Huds, as chairman of the committee, and supervisor of schools. The building is 32x40 1/2 feet, giving space for two rooms with capacity for nearly 100 pupils, with entry and recitation room between. In the basement are "play-rooms" for the pupils on stormy days. The building is two stories, the upper story having been finished and turned over by the Ladies' Social Circle, as a hall for religious and social gatherings. The ladies also have a dining-room and kitchen in the basement. The building is on the corner of a two-acre lot, a little from the main street, commanding a very fine view of the surrounding country on both sides of the Kennebec.

WEST GARDNER. Miss Carrie B. Nudd and Miss Lillian Small of this town, have been visiting friends in Augusta. Miss Edna Batchelder of Gardner spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. E. Babb. Miss Lena Curtis, who has been visiting in the city, has been visiting in the city. A large crowd attended the circle at the Grange hall, last Saturday evening. The entertainment, which was a mock trial, was well carried out, and was enjoyed by all present. The next circle will occur Thursday evening, March 3, and the entertainment will consist of a "mistral show," after which will be a supper and dance. Mr. Clarence Curtis, who has been visiting in the city, has been visiting in the city. Two weeks with the grip, is much improved. Towle Brothers of this town have sold their apples to Lewiston parties.</

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The death of Joseph Howard, Sidney, occurred Wednesday, from pneumonia, aged 83 years. Mr. Howard was the last surviving member of the family of eight children, six sons and two daughters, of Major Reuel Howard. He was a man who was universally liked and respected by those who knew him.

Chester W. Kingsley of Cambridge, Mass., has been accepted by the board of trustees of Colby University at Waterville. This gift coming close upon the successful effort to raise \$50,000 for the college brings encouragement to the friends of Colby.

A. E. Faught, Esq., of Sidney, has an almanac for 1790, by Robert B. Thomas, printed in Boston one hundred and two years ago. This almanac belonged to one of his ancestors, Capt. Jacob Faught of Vassalboro, and contains his autograph and place of residence also. The owner of this almanac was the eldest of three sons who came to this country from Germany with his father when about twelve years of age, and settled in Vassalboro about 150 years ago. Mr. Faught prices this book very highly it being an old family keepsake.

The schoolhouse built some two or three years since by the town of Benton, in Benton station district, is an honor to the town. It was built some three years since under the direction of Fred M. Hinds, as chairman of the committee, and supervisor of schools. The building is 32x45 feet, giving space for two rooms with capacity for nearly 100 pupils, with entry and recitation room between. In the basement are "play-rooms" for the pupils on stormy days. The building is a two-story structure, the upper story being finished and furnished by the Ladies' Social Circle, as a hall for religious and social gatherings. The building also has a dining-room and kitchen in the basement. The building is in the center of a two-acre lot, a little from the main streets, commanding a very fine view of the surrounding country on both sides of the building.

WEST GARDNER. Miss Carrie B. Nudd and Miss Lillian Small of this town, have been visiting friends in Augusta. Miss Edna Hatchelder of Gardner spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Babbs. Miss Lena Curtis, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Peacock, at Kent's Hill, returned home last week. Miss Grace Haskell of this town, who has been teaching school in New Brunswick, is now at home for several weeks' vacation. A large crowd attended the circle at the Grange hall, last Saturday evening. The entertainment, which was a mock trial, was well carried out, and was enjoyed by all present. The next circle will occur Thursday evening, March 3, and the entertainment will consist of a "minstrel show," after which will be a supper and dance. Mr. Clarence Curtis, who has been confined to the house for the past two weeks with the grip, is much improved. Towle Brothers of this town have sold their apples to Lewiston parties.

PERSONAL.

—Miss Annie Fuller, who for several years was the popular book-keeper and press reader at the *Maine Farmer*, has been married at Manchester, N. H., Feb. 16, to Mr. J. R. Keating, well known as private Secretary to Mr. Payson Tucker. The best wishes of the entire force go with them both to their home in North Conway, N. H.

—The outcome of the tangle in Penobscot county over the election of a member of the Board of Agriculture is that at the second meeting of the delegates, Mr. G. N. Holland was re-elected, receiving 24 out of 40 votes. Mr. Holland has, during the past three years, been a most efficient member of the Board and his experience will be valuable in future councils.

—The latest report from the gubernatorial harvest is that Hon. Waldo Peterson, Rumford Falls, is announced as a candidate for the republican nomination in 1900. The crop of candidates promises to be the largest ever gathered in Maine.

—Hon. Darius H. Ingraham has been nominated for Mayor by the democrats of Portland, and the present incumbent, Mayor Randall has again been selected by the republicans.

—Samuel F. Davis has been appointed postmaster at South Paris, and Willard H. Pike at Calais.

—The appointment of Hon. A. R. Nickerson, Boothbay Harbor, is one of the best yet made by Gov. Powers.

—It is reported that Hon. J. W. Bassett, Winslow, will be a candidate for County Commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. R. C. Burgess. Mr. Burgess has been one of the most valuable officers the county has had for many years.

—Come to Augusta.

The present board of selectmen have reduced the town debt of Brunswick during their four years in office over \$18,000, the reduction the past year amounting to \$5500, according to the town report.

Cures

Talk

"Cures talk" in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla, as for no other medicine.

Its great cures recorded in truthful, convincing language of grateful men and women, constitute its most effective advertising. Many of these cures are marvelous; have given Hood's Sarsaparilla the largest sales in the world, and have made necessary for its manufacture the greatest laboratory on earth. Hood's Sarsaparilla is known by the cures it cures—cures of scrofula, salt rheum and eczema, cures of rheumatism, neuralgia and weak nerves, cures of dyspepsia, liver troubles, catarrh—cures which prove its supply.

Following Mr. Cook's paper on "Fighting Insects," a discussion came up on the matter of destroying the tent caterpillar. Secretary Knowlton inquired of the speaker what course he would recommend for the destruction of this insect. Mr. Cook suggested that spraying seemed to promise success in this direction.

Mr. Pope suggested that this problem was by no means a simple one. Caterpillars travel after their feeding ground has been fed over.

The forest caterpillar promises to be the greater pest among us the coming year. These appear in colonies of such numbers as to defy all efforts at destroying them by ordinary methods.

Mr. Geo. T. Powell, Ghent, N. Y.

Fighting of insects has come to be an important matter. The canker worm has been a great pest in portions of New York. To-day the canker worm has been completely subdued. Use Paris green solution, one pound to 100 gallons water. But if the Paris green is used with strength, lime must be used with it freely to prevent the scorching of the foliage. Large trees can be sprayed at an expense of four cents a tree. This means thoroughly coating every leaf of the tree.

The best nozzle he has used for high spraying is the J. J. McGowan nozzle. For small trees the Vermorel is a fine working one. The effect of the spraying depends on its being done in a most thorough manner. Spraying should be done every year. If not actually needed for protection in any single year, the spraying prevents the propagation of fungi or spores and thus reduces the danger of the year following. Hence the spraying in the off or unfruitful years is as important as in the bearing years.

The number of sprayings necessary cannot be set down. Much depends on the season. In common years two sprayings will accomplish the result.

Prof. Munson called attention to the black knot. This should be cut off and burned. The spores left on the ground are as menacing as if they remained on the trees. It is important that these spores be destroyed.

In answer to question from Mr. Wooster, Prof. Munson stated that plants may be improved by culture. Some varieties of tomatoes run up by deterioration. Some change by improvement. Variations in kind come from crossing.

Mr. Powell

Am thoroughly in sympathy with this matter of plant breeding. There is a wonderful field here for the creation of new varieties. Am at present planting only the Northern Spy stock and selecting buds from the King to work on that stock. Is careful to take these buds from trees that suit his ideas of what the tree should be.

In currents is pursuing same course of selection. Occasionally finds a specially fine Fay current. That stock is marked. Cuttings from such stock are used for planting. Strong buds and strong stock only are used for propagation.

Prof. Cook.

Is it not better to take such a tree as Northern Spy to graft upon than to resort to seedling stock?

Mr. Powell alluded to the fact that the Northern Spy was also an exceedingly strong rooted tree. In regard to effect of stock on cion was not able to say the quality is essentially changed. But his experience has proved that the season of ripeness or maturity is modified. Has an orchard of Twenty One worked on Early Harvest, which gives him mature fruit of that kind earlier than other growers.

Prof. Munson.

There is a universal tendency of plants to revert to some former parentage.

Mr. Powell, in answer to a question, says he buys a two years old stock from the nurseries and plants them out and lets them grow two years before grafting. Then is two years in changing all the top.

Another method was to let the tree stand only one year and then insert buds in the branches. This method has some advantages from the fact if a bud fails the branch sustains no injury.

FRUIT.

The fruit exhibition, of course, was not of the importance usually attaching to this feature of the meeting, yet was not without interest. Several contributions from growers in Franklin county expected on the table were snowbound, and failed to put in their appearance.

On the tables were some plates of our standard sorts that were of usual excellence.

S. H. Niles, Jay, showed six plates all of stock. The Baldwins were as fine as usual. Russells and Harveys were also good.

E. F. Purington, Farmington, was the largest exhibitor, showing plates of eleven varieties. His Granite Beauty was very fine.

D. P. True, Leeds, had nine plates. His Baldwins, Bellflowers and Kings were good for any year. The first named were especially fine. Mr. True also showed fine varieties of pears and a plate of Quince, a rare fruit grown in this State.

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A plate of Pumpkin Sweets, large and fine, were shown by C. S. Pope.

Crabapples were shown, very fine, by S. H. Niles and A. C. Greenleaf of Farmington.

Canned apples were shown by Mrs. Jennie E. Litchfield, Winthrop, and Mrs. E. E. Paine, Jay. The same ladies also made a fine exhibition of apple jellies, put up in the usual form. The differing colors of these glasses formed an attractive feature on the fruit tables. Mrs. Litchfield had 20 different samples and Mrs. Paine three.

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MAINE STATE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

[CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE.]

and capacities of plants, their laws of growth and their enemies and diseases, is made to serve a practical purpose in aiding the farmer and fruit grower to meet intelligently the questions which arise in his daily work and in order that the work of the Experiment Station shall be of the greatest value there must be the fullest sympathy between its officers and the people whose interests it serves.

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SPRING NEEDS.

What Everybody Requires at This Season.

Some Things Are of the Utmost Importance to You.

This Will Tell You Just What You Must Need Now and How to Get It.

In the Spring changes always take place in our system which require attention. There is a tired, languid feeling, a depression, the digestive organs become deranged, the blood is bad, causing the complexion to become affected and the person feels an inability to work.

At such a time a Spring medicine is absolutely necessary, and Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy is the medicine you want. It will overcome all these conditions. It will invigorate the blood, regulate the digestive organs, clear the complexion and make you feel strong and well.

Portland, Me. Says:

"I was completely prostrated from the effects of two paralytic shocks which attacked both sides of my body. A friend recommended me to try Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy as a remedy, and I bought a bottle in H. H. Hay's drug store on Middle street. I found so much relief from this bottle that I continued to use it with increasing good results, and I am now much better than I ever expected to be again, and give the credit it deserves to Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy for my recovery. I gladly give this testimonial so that other sufferers may be able to avail themselves of this excellent remedy."

You want health, don't you? You want to get up in the morning and feel like doing a good day's work, don't you? And you want your children to feel strong and vigorous, don't you? Well, Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy will do all this.

It will give to you and your children perfect health, and that is exactly what you want. It is the best Spring medicine known. It was discovered by Dr. Greene of 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., the most successful specialist in curing nervous and chronic diseases. He can be consulted free of charge, personally or by letter.

State News.

A Dixfield factory has just completed an order for 5,000,000 checkers and 200,000 dice for the Indians.

Rufus E. McDonald, aged 28, died in the chair while having 28 teeth extracted by a local dentist, at Biddeford, Tuesday.

Omer Littlefield, the 16-year-old Greenville lad, who was lost in the woods, last Wednesday night, died Friday morning, without recovering consciousness.

Ira Myrick, an ice hand, employed by Chase, Russell & Co., Richmond, was drowned in the canal at the ice houses, Saturday morning. He was 20 years old and belonged to Patten.

The granite business in Jonesboro is a great help to the town. The Bowdell Granite Company shipped 70 cargoes last season, and Booth Brothers built a railroad from their quarry to the wharf, and quarried and shipped 9 cargoes.

Bethel is great on centennials, the latest being that of the anniversary of some first Maine preaching in town held Feb. 15, the attendance being large and exercises of great pleasure and profit to all.

Rev. W. F. Small of North Anson has been invited to become pastor of the Methodist church at Richmond and Bowdoinham. It is expected that he will enter upon his work there about May 1.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Smear was burned to death Tuesday afternoon. He had been left in a chair beside a stove while his mother was in an adjoining room, when the wood-burner caught fire, and the child was quickly enveloped in the flames.

The good lady in Foxcroft, 60 years of age, who walked two miles through the snow to see a doctor, who would not see her until she had walked two miles, is a kind of a Christian that the community can appreciate, whatever her creed.

There is so much snow in some sections of northern Maine that several counties have been lumbering, have been obliged to stop work and come out of the woods. Throughout the middle northern section five feet on a level is the estimate.

Sunday afternoon at 5.30 fire was discovered in the mill owned by C. M. & H. A. Irish, Buckfield, used for manufacturing dye blocks. Property was destroyed, together with some 15,000 feet of lumber. Origin of the fire is unknown. Loss about \$4,500, with partial insurance.

The ice business at Richmond has taken a jump during the past few days. Operations were begun at Thwing's Point, Monday, and a large crew will be set to work at the Lincoln, Wednesday morning, the weather being favorable.

The present indications are that a large amount of cotton will be harvested in this vicinity.

The riches of America, in which Maine is a large share-holder, were well illustrated at the annual meeting of the American Paper and Pulp Association at New York, which President Hugh J. Chisholm mentioned the fact that while in the whole of Europe there were only 31 varieties of forest trees, America had 380 varieties.

A bad accident occurred in Rockport at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon. R. E. A. Shibles was warning some cart-riders in a pump house in one of the S. E. of H. Shepherd quarries, then by some unknown reason the cart-riders exploded, and as a result Mr. Shibles was severely injured and cannot live. The pump house was entirely destroyed, Mr. Shibles being thrown into the quarry, several feet below.

Walter T. Sands, a flagman at the Maine Central railroad station at Ellsworth, was run over by the 11 o'clock down freight Monday, both legs being crushed. The train was being made up and Sands was helping.

Low License.

No wonder the liquor sellers of Androscoggin county believe in the law as it is. It is the cheapest form of license known. As a result of the late term of court, with a big list of indictments, the county treasury is richer by \$2,945.20. Not enough to pay for the fuel, clothing and food furnished because of rum.

ing, and although the trainmen say it was not his duty, it appears that their objections to his assistance could not have been very strong, for he was intrusted with somebody's duty of coupling together two cars.

The law court of Maine has decided for the plaintiffs in the five cases against the town of Foxcroft in which the invalid notices of its embellying Treasurer, Judge Hale, were involved. Judge Hale was a suicide on detection, and at once his house, which had been kept without bonds or examination for 30 years, were found to be in a tangle. Embellying was soon discovered and the town sought to free itself from the obligations carried by its dead Treasurer.

Rumor has it that Frank Peavy of Minneapolis, a wealthy grain dealer, is seriously thinking of establishing an elevator system in Eastport. Mr. Peavy was a former Eastport boy, and will retain a deep respect for his mother city, and is ever interested in her welfare and prosperity. It was he that gave the magnificent public library; and recently he has donated the building of \$20,000 toward the contemplated new high school building.

The Supreme court at Dover is wrestling with some of the celebrated Hale cases and public attention is directed to the decisions expected in June. A compromise is suggested but at the best there is likely to be tedious legislation. Even if in the long run the town is freed from the woodwork, it has saved quite a sum of money to pay off his men, but it was burned up, together with all the clothes and furniture save a few small things on the first floor, and was insured for \$700 in the Grange Mutual insurance company.

The Machias Republican says: Allen & Gleason at the Porcupines, Perry, have a crew of ninety men on the railroad and are pushing business notwithstanding the disagreeable weather. C. J. Welch, who has a sub-contract from Allen & Gleason, to grade part of the road leading out of Pembroke, has taken another grade, a part of the road west of this town, the Penmanquam river, which will necessitate a large amount of filling in on both sides, to receive the span that will be built across it at that point. Contractor R. E. Rivins of the Washington county railroad, closed a trade with C. B. Wilkins last week, to grade 13 miles of the road, running East of Machias. Down Easters are not lacking in a regular train service by August.

One of the good effects of the Sportsman's Exhibition in Boston and New York, is that a big boom is promised for the Penobscot Indians of Old Town. The fair is a big making. For years the Old Town Indians have been making large quantities of baskets which they have disposed of themselves or through Hunt & Stowe, as agents. The field for proper work is apparently broadening, and what now promises to be a boom for the coming season may mean years instead of months of business for the Indians.

For several days, W. H. Harding of New York, a large dealer in basket wares, with headquarters in New York and Boston, has been in Old Town making arrangements for a large stock of baskets to be made by the Indians.

Archie Kidder, the boy who attempted to blow up the boiler at the Reform School, has made a full confession. He states that he took a shalloon of coal from the furnace and threw them in a closet where there was a lot of rope and other waste matter. He then closed the door and moved the safety valve weight so that the steam would not escape when the safety limit was reached. He went to a safe distance and climbed a tree to watch the explosion. He gave no cause for his act. The Board decided to turn him over to the State Court. In the meantime he will be kept in solitary confinement. Kidder had served enough time for him to be put out and his rank and conduct were good. Mr. Morse had been looking for a place for him for several weeks, and had he not attempted this atrocious crime, he would soon have been enjoying his liberty.

One of the most important business transfers which has occurred for years is that of the sale of the Wild River Lumber company's property and business to a syndicate of capitalists from different parts of the country. Hon. Daniel P. Emery, Jr., of Portland, the Ames estate in Massachusetts, and several others are interested. The Wild River Lumber company has operated at Hasting's, Me., since seven years ago. Hasting's is a place given to that postoffice established by request of the company and is three and one-half miles from Gilead station on the Grand Trunk road. The company constructed a railroad from Gilead to Hasting's which it runs and operates in connection with its business. It has a large mill for the manufacture of lumber, a large store and boarding house, shops, etc., and 20 or more dwelling houses. In fact there is a small village, all owned by the company. The company owns timber lands in Maine and some 45,000 acres in New Hampshire. It has been doing a large business and has been very successful.

BRUNSWICK. Notwithstanding the long thaw last week, we are gratified to find that the farmers and lumbermen are improving the good sledding. Our Fairfield Swing company are receiving a large amount of orders from all parts of the country and are employing a large crew in manufacturing lawn swings. Our cotton mill remains closed in consequence of a cut down of 10 per cent in wages of the operatives and a strike. A large lot of cotton was received yesterday. Fire wood is lower in price this winter than it has been for many years. The best quality of rock maple wood sells at \$4 per cord and pine at \$2.25. Mr. Owen Howard of Manchester, N. H., were brought here for burial last week. She resided here till a few years since. Our town meeting closed in a few days and there are a large number of candidates anxious to fill the offices. Hope that the assertion of a writer in the *New England Monthly* is not true in our town, that the "principle requisite of the selectmen in Maine towns is to be done with the rum sellers." Quite a sensation is created here at present in high toned society by the development of a similar case to that at Bethel, which will lead to a divorce case.

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